

**APPROVED DECEMBER 30, 2009**

At 7:10 PM Chairman Charles Kimball called the meeting to order. Budget Committee members present were Charles Kimball, Andy Kohlhofer, Pat Martel, Laurie Allore, Michael Nygren, Sue D'Eon, Peg Pinkham, Selectmen Greta St. Germain and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2009 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was 5-0-2. Martel and D'Eon abstained as they were not present at this meeting.

On one of the questions in the Fire Department Budget regarding the spending of the \$10,000 this year for new equipment for the purchase of the camera, Fire Chief Butler wants to have several vendors come in and do demonstrations on the various types of cameras and there won't be enough time to do this research by the end of the year.

Nygren feels that looking at the trending in the past 3 years the spending has been less than what was appropriated, 2006 had \$23,000 less, 2007 had \$39,000, and in 2008 \$45,000 less. He feels that there can be a reduction to this budget by \$45,000 as there are residual funds. Kimball wants to see what the Chief does this year, and what may be turned back where he is the new Chief. A motion to recommend the Selectmen's figure of \$179,236 was made by Nygren. This motion was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was 2-6. The vote didn't pass. Pinkham asked St. Germain for clarification on her nay vote. Pinkham thought she represents the Selectman Board on a vote in this Committee. St. Germain said she was voting as a member of the Budget Committee.

Kohlhofer said on the training line they haven't spent this line. Kohlhofer motioned to reduce line 4220-013 Fire Training to \$4,000. Pinkham seconded this motion and asked the question has Butler ever come forth with his projected training and do we need to make a list of questions to submit to Butler before any decision is made. Kimball said if someone on the Department is not trained or certified, he can only stand and watch or maybe hold the hose, but he cannot assist if there is a fire. Sometimes when they are put on the Department they have to wait one year for training due to the space in classroom training being available. Martel said the EMS training line is also high in respect to what has been spent. If he was short and needed money in the regular training line, he could do a line transfer from the EMS line as there are funds there. The vote was 4-4. Nays were Kimball, Pinkham, D'Eon, and Martel. The motion was defeated.

A motion to reduce 4220-003 New Equipment line by \$10,000 and to reduce 4220-013 Fire Training line to \$1,400, with a reduction to the bottom line budget of \$11,400 was made by Martel. There was no second.

Pinkham supports the Department as it works on a volunteer basis and they need to spend the money for training and that this money needs to be available. Kohlhofer while going through each line and what has been spent, feels that this budget is over funded. Nygren said let's ask what his staff training is going to be next year. A motion to table the vote was made by Nygren until the answers to questions are received. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 8-0. St. Germain has the list of questions needing answers by the Chief, and also the request to get the current trending of spending report by Carlson that is up to date by Departments for the Committee.

The Warrant Articles were given to the Budget Committee for their recommendations. They are as follows:

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town of Fremont raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$\_\_\_\_\_? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$\_\_\_\_\_, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Fremont or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Note: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) to perform an assessment recertification for the tax year beginning 04/01/2010 pursuant to NH DRA Rules; and further to authorize the withdrawal of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the recertification is complete or by December 31, 2011, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee -----recommend this appropriation (insert vote). (Majority vote required.)

A motion was by Kohlhofer to recommend this appropriation. The motion was seconded by Martel. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Highway Building Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee ----- recommend this appropriation (insert vote). (Majority vote required.)

A motion not to recommend Article 7 was made by Kohlhofer. He wanted to have the report for comparison whether to have the Town purchase their own equipment or continue to use equipment hire and a committee is supposed to be formulated to investigate this. St. Germain said at the Selectmen's meeting they have approved this Committee. Martel said the Building Capital Reserve Fund has \$112,000 in it, and \$52,000 in the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was 3-5. The motion not to recommend failed. A motion to recommend the appropriation as it reads by Pinkham. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was 5-3.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee ----- recommend the appropriation (insert vote). (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend Article 8 as appropriated was made by Pinkham. This was seconded by D'Eon. The motion to amend the amount being placed in this warrant to \$1,500 was made by

Nygren and seconded by Martel. He feels that with the account has the \$23,500 from two years ago in it and by only adding \$1,500 it will give them enough to purchase a cruiser this year. Martel said actually there is \$38,000 in the account. Kohlhofer wondered if there was the potential of possibly purchasing two cruisers if we added \$12,500 this year. Kohlhofer feels that if we put in the \$12,500 as requested this will put them back into their cycle of purchasing every other year a new vehicle. Nygren rescinded his motion. Pinkham motion to accept Article 8 as recommended. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee ----- recommend this appropriation (insert vote). (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend this appropriation was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was 7-1.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee -----recommend this appropriation (insert vote). (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend this appropriation was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Expansion/Renovation of the Fremont Historic Museum Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen do not recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee \_\_\_\_\_ (insert vote) recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

Allore asked what the renovation will be used for. Kimball said there is a hearse, hand tub, fire pump that need to have permanent housing and putting money into this fund is for an addition to the existing building. Kohlhofer feels that utilizing part of the library would be a place to put this articles and for people to be able to view. A motion to not recommend this appropriation was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was 8-0.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend the appropriation of \$50,000 into the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend this appropriation was made by Pinkham. This was seconded by D'Eon. Discussion by Nygren that when we get to the point that we are purchasing a building and they could use the money spent on rental then get a bond to do the whole line of equipment needed plus the building rather than placing money in this fund over a 3-5 year prior. The vote was 5-3.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand one hundred fifteen dollars (\$5,115) for the purchase of OHRV equipment; and further to authorize the withdrawal of five thousand one hundred fifteen dollars (\$5,115) from the OHRV Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend this appropriation was made by Pinkham. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-nine thousand five hundred fifty dollars (\$49,550) to continue the Public Health Mosquito Control Program. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend this appropriation was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to do paving and overlay work, and do associated shoulder work on sections of \_\_\_\_\_ Roads. The Selectmen \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation and the Budget Committee does \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

The Committee tabled this article due to no streets being provided that work will be done on. The vote was unanimous 8-0. Further information will be pending.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-six thousand nine hundred ninety-six dollars (\$26,996) to purchase and equip a 2010 Police Cruiser for the Police Department; and further to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-six thousand nine hundred ninety-six dollars (\$26,996) from the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend this appropriation was made by Pinkham. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ thousand dollars (\$4,000 est) to purchase and install an additional piece of playground equipment for children ages \_\_\_\_\_, at Fremont's Memorial Fields; and further to authorize the withdrawal of \_\_\_\_\_ thousand dollars (\$x,000) from the Parks & Recreation Playground Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. The Selectmen \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this

appropriation and the Budget Committee does \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

This Article has no final dollar amount on what playground equipment so the Budget Committee tabled recommendation on this Article until this information is provided.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of Cable Access, and to raise and appropriate twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from cable franchise fees, to be placed in said fund. All revenues received from cable franchise fees will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's General Fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does \_\_\_\_\_ recommend (insert vote) this appropriation. (Majority vote required.)

A motion to recommend this recommendation was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

Kohlhofer received a letter from the New Hampshire City and Town Clerk Association that he read for the Committee. The letter is as follows:

Dear Mr. Kohlhofer:

Thank you for your patience in waiting for a response to your letter sent to me concerning the NHC&TC Conference. I am also the Tax Collector and our taxes were due last week, so therefore the delay.

NH RSA 31:8 in part, requires the town to pay the actual expenses of the city/town clerk/tax collector' attendance at their respective annual conference. It does not require the town to pay for all expenses of the annual conference. Those costs are paid by the Association which amounted to over \$17,000 this past September.

I am sorry you are under the impression that I am powerful enough to hold the conference anywhere I wish to have it because, quite frankly, I would love to have

the conference on my side of the state to help defray the costs of small towns here. However, there is no place that is big enough to accommodate over 200 participants and have 140 rooms available.

We are open to any suggestions you might have as our conference committee is always on the lookout for places to hold our conferences that would give us the best price for what we need. We have been all over the state and have used several places which we have been happy with and were reasonable for everyone concerned. We also have expenses for the conference, as I stated above, and want to be sure to be as frugal as possible with our monies.

Providing educational opportunities for all clerks in the state it is of utmost importance to our association, and because of that, we try very hard to keep costs as low as possible. If the clerks

do not attend training with the state agencies, workshops and the conferences then that is detrimental to your towns. A good share of a town or city's revenue passes through clerk's office so it's important to the towns to be sure their clerks stay current with all aspect of NH State laws.

If you have any further questions please let me know and I would be happy to discuss any suggestions you might have for future conferences.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Clark  
President, NHC7TCS  
Charlestown NH

A motion to put this letter into the minutes was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

With no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting as made by Kohlhofer at 8:55 PM. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

The next Budget Committee meeting will be December 30, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren  
Recording Secretary